



Highway Hypnosis and Fatigue: Stop driving when you feel drowsy. Pull off the highway at the first rest stop or service area and take a nap. Drowsiness is one of the greatest dangers in expressway driving. Don't rely on stimulant drugs (Stay Awake Drugs). They are likely to make your driving even more hazardous. On long trips it is a good idea to exercise your eyes. Expressway drivers are subject to "highway hypnosis", a condition of drowsiness or unawareness brought on by monotony, the sound of the wind, the tires on the pavement, and the steady hum of the engine. Keep shifting your eyes from one area of the roadway to another and focus on various objects, both near and far, left and right. Reading the highway signs will help you stay awake and drive more safely.

Drive Defensively: The key to defensive driving is awareness. You must keep your eyes moving so that you can keep track of what is happening at all times. Avoid staring at the center strip, but rather look well ahead for trouble spots which may endanger you or your passengers. The defensive driver will also frequently check the rearview and side mirrors to keep abreast of the traffic situations to the rear and sides.

Never trust another driver to do what you think they are going to do or what they should do in any particular situation. The fact that a left turn signal is not flashing doesn't necessarily mean that the driver isn't going to make a left turn in front of you. You should constantly be thinking of an "escape route" as you drive. After a little practice this will become second nature. Then if a sudden emergency arises, you will not be surprised and you will have a plan of action ready. For example, if you are coming to a curve, you should be looking closely at the shoulder and nearby area to determine what you would do if a car approaching from the other direction is on your side of the road. The same consideration applies to bridges and hills.

If the car approaching you in the distance is starting to pass and you think it may not have enough room, work out your plan for safety measures before you meet head on.

If a collision seems unavoidable, don't panic. You should try to steer your way out of it and do anything to keep from hitting head on. If you must strike another car or object, try to do so at a slant. If there is any choice, select the softest thing to hit. This might be the ditch instead of another vehicle.

Keep your car in good mechanical condition. In emergency situations it may suffer considerable strain and stress. If the tires are inflated properly, the shock absorbers and steering related parts are in proper order and free from defects, your chances of survival will be greater.



DEER - AUTOMOBILE COLLISIONS

Each year numerous collisions occur in Georgia due to deer. Although hunting will keep deer herds in check, the potential for an accident always exists. Understanding common habits of deer and knowing what to do when a deer runs out in front of the car can help to avoid serious accidents.

Automobile accident statistics from the Department of Motor Vehicle Safety indicate that though deer-automobile collisions are on the rise, they still account for less than three percent of automobile accidents reported each year.

It is important to remember that deer are wild animals and are very unpredictable. The deer you see calmly standing on the side of the road may bolt into the road rather than away from it when startled by a car. In areas with known deer populations, drivers should constantly scan the road and road shoulders for deer movements and sightings. Always slow down when a deer crosses the road in front of you or another car. Deer usually travel in groups and there likely is another one following closely behind. If a deer is spotted on the road or roadside at night, the driver should slow down immediately, blink their headlights and switch to low beam so as not to blind the deer. Also, short horn blasts should help scare the deer from the road.

Should the deer or other animal run out in front of your car, slow down as much as possible to minimize the damage of a collision. Don't swerve to avoid a deer because you may collide with another car and cause more damage. If you do have an accident, call the police as soon as possible. Most insurance companies will require an accident report from the police before paying claims for those vehicles covered by collision insurance.

Deer are usually seen along the roadside during the early morning hours and late evening. Drivers should be alert for deer during these peak hours. Deer are most active in the fall months of October, November and December during the peak breeding season. Also late February and early March are critical months for deer-car collisions. During this period they concentrate along road shoulders to feed on new green food available following a long hard winter.

There's little you can do when a deer crashes into your car of its own accord. Fortunately, many collisions are avoidable, if you take precautions, slow down and know something about their habits.



OTHER EMERGENCIES

Fire

Apply mud, dirt, dust or snow.
Check ditch for water.
Use hub cap to carry water to wet apparel.
Loosen dirt with tire tool to throw on fire.

Accelerator Jammed

Slap the pedal with foot.
Shift to neutral.
Concentrate on steering.
Use brakes.
Turn off ignition (not to lock).

Brakes Fail

Shift to lower gear.
Use parking brakes.
Rub tire on the curb.
Look for a safe area to stop.

Wet Brakes

Test brakes lightly after driving through deep water. Brakes may pull to one side or may not hold at all. Dry brakes by driving slowly in low gear while applying brakes lightly.

Emotions Affect Your Driving

If you are emotionally upset, don't take a chance on driving. Persons who have just had violent arguments, or who are angry or in grief, need some time for "*cooling-off*" or making an adjustment before they drive a car. Taking it out behind the wheel on streets and highways is extremely dangerous and can prove an expensive way to expend emotions.

Alcohol: Most Abused Drug in America.

There are several things you should remember about alcohol:

1. Alcohol is not a stimulant; it is a depressant. It slows normal reactions, interferes with judgement and reasoning, and reduces alertness.
2. It is a common myth that if you stick to beer or wine, you won't get drunk. It is the amount of alcohol which enters the blood that causes the problem, not the form in which you take it.
3. If you've had too much to drink, coffee, food or milk will not sober you. For the average person, it takes one hour for the effects of one drink to wear off.



COMMON SYMPTOMS OF ALCOHOL INFLUENCE



**SLOWED
REACTIONS**

**INCREASED
RISK
TAKING**

**IMPAIRED
VISION**

**POOR
COORDINATION**

The probability of being involved in a motor vehicle accident is greatly increased after consuming alcohol or drugs before or during operation of a motor vehicle.

DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE!

Implied Consent

Georgia's implied consent law means that a person operating a motor vehicle on a public street or highway is automatically giving his permission for a test of alcoholic or drug content of his blood, breath, or urine, whenever requested to do so by an officer who has grounds to believe the driver is driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. If you choose to refuse the test, you will be subject to a one year suspension of your driver's license.



HEAVY TRUCKS

Sharing the Road. . . Safely

We depend on trucks, day and night, to bring us the things we need to live. If you ate it, drank it, slept on it, drove it, watched it, worked with it, or typed on it, a truck was used to deliver it. Trucks are driven by trained, specially-licensed drivers.

Sharing the road with heavy trucks is a necessary part of road travel. Heavy trucks, typically weighing 80,000 pounds, should be respected by car drivers.

Everyone should be aware of the differences between trucks and cars. These include:

A fully loaded tractor-trailer, traveling 55 mph, needs 3 times the distance a car needs to stop. Trucks are more difficult to maneuver, are longer and heavier, and require much more room to turn. Trucks have larger blind spots.

Don't Hang Out in the "No Zone"!!!

Sharing the road safely includes knowing where not to linger when passing or driving next to a heavy truck. Typically, the larger the vehicle, the larger the blind spots.

A truck's blind spots, the "No Zone," are dangerous because truck drivers can't see cars in these areas.

It is impossible to completely avoid a truck's blind spots. However, car drivers should not remain in the "No Zone" any longer than needed to safely pass a heavy truck.

The easiest way to avoid lingering in the "No Zone" is to look for the truck driver's reflection in the side mirror. If you can't see the driver's reflection, you are in the truck driver's blindspot. These areas around the truck include: directly in front, directly behind and along each side. **Especially on the right side.**



Truck Safety - DOs

DO recognize and respect the differences between trucks and cars.

DO share the road safely.

DO teach friends and family to share the road safely.

DO avoid lingering in the "No Zone".

DO give trucks plenty of room (or cushion). In dry conditions, use the "two second rule". Follow trucks at a distance of at least two seconds. After passing a truck, give yourself at least two seconds before merging to the right, in front of the truck. Make sure you can see the entire truck in your review mirror before merging.

DO give trucks at least four to six seconds of space (or cushion) in wet conditions or at highway speed.

DO give trucks extra room for right turns.

DO give trucks extra space and time for backing-up.

DO call authorities if you see unsafe truck driving.

Truck Safety - DON'Ts

DON'T linger in the "No Zone" when passing a truck.

DON'T underestimate the size or speed of a truck.

DON'T slam on your brakes in front of a truck.

DON'T cut off a truck in traffic or on the highway to reach your exit or turn.

DON'T tailgate a truck. At highway speeds or on wet pavement, trucks have more traction than cars.

DON'T pass a truck on the right during a turn.

DON'T forget these safety guidelines. Remember that all motor vehicles are partners in traffic safety. All of us have responsibility to

SHARE THE ROAD.....SAFELY.



LITTER CONTROL LAW

Each year City, County and State Governments spend thousands of dollars to clean up litter from streets and highways of our State. The individual who litters causes harm to the beauty of the State and affects the health, welfare and safety of others.

It is the intention of the General Assembly to provide for uniform prohibition throughout the State of any and all littering on public and private property.

Definitions: (a) Unless otherwise stated the word "*littering*" means all sand, gravel, slag, brick bats, rubbish, waste material, tin can, refuse, garbage, trash, dead animals or discarded materials of every kind and description, (b) the phrase "*public or private property*" means the right-of-way of any road or highway, any body of water or watercourse of the shores or beaches thereof, any park, playground, building refuge or conservation or recreation area and residential or farm properties, timberlands or forest.

It is unlawful to dump, deposit, throw or leave litter on any public or private property in this State, or any waters in this State.

Whenever litter is thrown, deposited, or dropped from any motor vehicle the **operator** of the vehicle shall have violated the Litter Control Law.

All State law enforcement agencies are authorized to enforce compliance of the Litter Control Law.

Any person violating the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction, be punished by a fine or a court may order the violator to pick up the litter from a specified area of roadway.



PROTECTING THE AIR

The operation of motor vehicles has a very significant impact on Georgia's air quality. Emissions from cars and light duty trucks contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone, a component of urban smog. Especially during warm weather, vehicle emissions can react with sunlight at high temperatures to produce unhealthy levels of this form of air pollution. Vehicle emissions and ground-level ozone can be reduced by proper vehicle maintenance, in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and by fewer trips and vehicle miles traveled.

In the thirteen county metro Atlanta area, gasoline-powered cars and light-duty trucks manufactured after July 1, 1985, must pass an emissions inspection every year prior to their registration with the county. The thirteen metro counties covered by the state's inspection and maintenance program are: Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, Paulding and Rockdale. For more detailed information about the emissions inspection program, call the Georgia Clean Air Force at 1-800-449-2471. Please be reminded that removing or disabling a vehicle's emissions control components is a violation of federal and state law.

In addition to proper vehicle maintenance, you can help reduce air pollution and traffic congestion by limiting driving to necessary travel, by planning ahead to consolidate trips, and by using carpools, transit and ridesharing. Every driver should do their part to reduce the impact of automobiles and trucks on air quality and the environment.

VEHICLE INSPECTIONS ARE REQUIRED EVERY YEAR!!

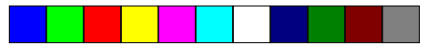
**All covered vehicles will require emission testing in 2002.
This includes vehicles 1978 through 1999.**

New Car Exemption:

The three most recent model year vehicles in the current test year are exempt from inspection. For 2002, this includes all 2000 and newer vehicles (2002, 2001, and 2000)

Antique or Collector Vehicles:

Vehicles 25 years or older are exempt from an emission inspection. For 2002, 1977 and older model year vehicles are exempt. No application or antique tag is required.



Chapter 6 After You Get Your License

The State of Georgia considers dangerous, negligent, or incompetent drivers to be a menace to the safety of the general public; therefore, you must not abuse your privilege to drive or you may lose it. As long as you remain a resident of Georgia, your driving record will be on file with the Department of Motor Vehicle Safety.

Your License May Be Taken Away

There are three ways by which you may lose your driving privileges:

Cancellation: The Department of Motor Vehicle Safety is authorized to cancel your license if you fail to give the required or correct information needed in your application or if you are otherwise ineligible. You may reapply once you satisfy the requirements.

Revocation: When your license is revoked your driving privileges are terminated and withdrawn until the end of the period of time prescribed by the formal action of the Department. At the expiration of the revocation period, you may apply for a new license.

Suspension: When your license is suspended, your driving privilege is temporarily withdrawn for a specific period of time. Inquiries regarding suspension actions and license reinstatement procedures should be directed to the address indicated below:

**Georgia Department of Motor Vehicle Safety
Driver Services Division
P. O. Box 80447
Conyers, Georgia 30013
(404) 657-9300**

Reporting Convictions

After a conviction of a traffic offense, the court will forward notice of that conviction to the Department.

Mandatory Suspension

The Department shall mandatorily suspend a license for a conviction of any of the following offenses in Georgia or any other state:

1. Homicide by vehicle.
2. A conviction for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
3. Any felony in the commission of which a motor vehicle is used.
4. Using a motor vehicle in fleeing or attempting to elude an officer.
5. Fraudulent or fictitious use of, or application for a license.
6. Hit and run or leaving the scene of an accident.
7. Racing.
8. Failure to maintain minimum liability insurance coverage.
9. If you refuse to take a chemical test for intoxication, then your license will be suspended for 12 months.



10. Operating a motor vehicle with a revoked, canceled, or suspended registration in violation of Code Section 40-6-15.
11. Conviction for driving without insurance is a 60/90 day suspension.
12. If convicted for driving while license is suspended, revoked or canceled, your driver's license will be further suspended for six months.
13. If you fail to appear in court or respond to a citation, your license may be suspended indefinitely.
14. Your driver's license will be suspended if you are convicted of possession, distribution, manufacture, cultivation, sale or transfer of a controlled substance or marijuana.
15. The Department is authorized to suspend your license if its records or other evidence shows that you have accumulated 15 points within 24 months under the point system, including violations committed out-of-state.

Points are accumulated for:

- a. Reckless Driving4 points
- b. Unlawful passing school bus.....6 points
- c. Improper passing on hill or curve.....4 points
- d. Speeding
 15 mph but less than 19 mph.....2 points
 19 mph but less than 24 mph.....3 points
 24 mph but less than 34 mph.....4 points
 34 mph or more.....6 points
- e. Disobedience of any traffic-control device or traffic officer3 points
- f. Possessing an open container of an alcoholic beverage while driving.....2 points
- g. Failure to adequately secure a load2 points
- h. All other moving violations3 points
- i. Child restraint - 1st offense..... 1 point
- j. Child restraint - 2nd and subsequent offense2 points
- k. Aggressive driving6 points
 (A conviction of aggressive driving by a person under 21 years of age will result in a suspension of the driver's license.)
- l. HOV lane violation - 4th and subsequent offense.1 point

At the time of the suspension, the points shall be reduced to 0 points.

Mandatory Revocation

Your driver's license will be revoked in Georgia, or any other state, if you are convicted of one of the following:

1. For any third conviction of a mandatorily suspendable offense within 5 years, you will be declared a habitual violator. This is a five-year revocation.
2. Refusal to submit to a re-examination of driving skills or knowledge of driving rules after receiving notice giving reasonable grounds for such a request.
3. If there is sufficient evidence of incompetence or unfitness to drive, due to incapacities by reason of disease, mental or physical disability, or by alcohol or drug addiction.